

Torrance Postoffice Becomes First Class on July 1



Annual Postal Figures Reveal Growth of City

A survey of the gross receipts at the Torrance postoffice since it was established 29 years ago is indicative of the growth of the city, Postmaster Earl Conner said this week. Here are the annual figures:

| | |
|------|-----------|
| 1912 | \$ 44.11 |
| 1913 | 1,428.99 |
| 1914 | 2,281.24 |
| 1915 | 2,111.62 |
| 1916 | 2,872.69 |
| 1917 | 4,064.58 |
| 1918 | 5,280.35 |
| 1919 | 5,470.85 |
| 1920 | 7,684.78 |
| 1921 | 9,388.73 |
| 1922 | 12,580.30 |
| 1923 | 15,390.48 |
| 1924 | 25,580.58 |
| 1925 | 23,299.90 |
| 1926 | 20,108.13 |
| 1927 | 24,870.46 |
| 1928 | 27,618.33 |
| 1929 | 31,182.28 |
| 1930 | 29,243.59 |
| 1931 | 23,484.19 |
| 1932 | 20,301.91 |
| 1933 | 20,846.77 |
| 1934 | 25,613.94 |
| 1935 | 31,451.36 |
| 1936 | 38,065.95 |
| 1937 | 40,699.20 |
| 1938 | 38,915.93 |
| 1939 | 40,387.28 |
| 1940 | 45,651.53 |

Annual Gross of \$45,651 Credited For Rating Boost

Having grossed more than the required \$40,000, less 10 per cent, in postal receipts during the calendar year of 1940, the Torrance postoffice has been advanced to a first class rating beginning next Tuesday, July 1, it was announced this week by Postmaster C. Earl Conner. The local office had a gross of \$45,651.53 last year, he said.

"Our citizens can now point with pride to a 'first class' postoffice in official rating as well as, we hope, in the service our staff has been giving for many years," he said. The new rating, however, will bring about a slight decrease in service, the postmaster pointed out. The postal money order window, which also serves purchasers of government bonds and postal savings depositors, will be operated on fewer working hours for the personnel. The window will be open at 9 a. m. and close at 5 p. m. On Saturdays the closing time will be 12 o'clock noon. This is in line with postal regulations which provide that the clerks manning the department be allowed extra time away from the window for routine bookkeeping and accounting.

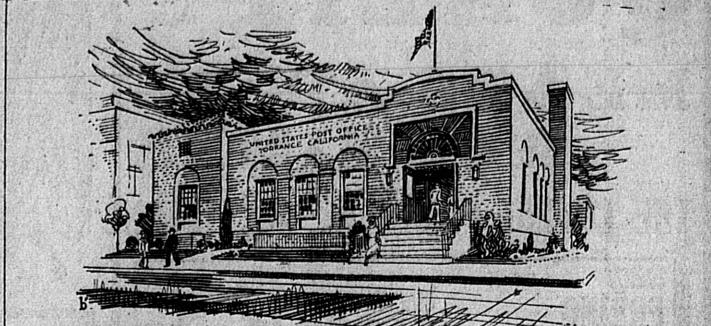
Authorized in 1912
To handle the increasing volume of business, the Torrance postoffice is advancing two workers. Glen Robinson, who has been a substitute clerk, will become a regular clerk and Clyde E. McNew has been made a regular carrier. Harry Theilman has been named a substitute clerk and Robert H. Hannan, a substitute carrier. The Torrance postoffice was authorized Sept. 18, 1912 on which date exactly 68 cents worth of postage stamps were sold. Postmaster Conner reported after a survey of old records this week. This investigation also turned up the following historical facts in connection with the mail center here:

The first postmaster was Stewart F. Mager. A change in postmasters was made on July 27, 1913 at which time Herman Burmaster was appointed and served until Nov. 19, 1919 when Alfred Goudier was appointed. He served until Feb. 10, 1924 when Conner was named acting postmaster. Conner received his first presidential appointment as postmaster May 30, 1934.

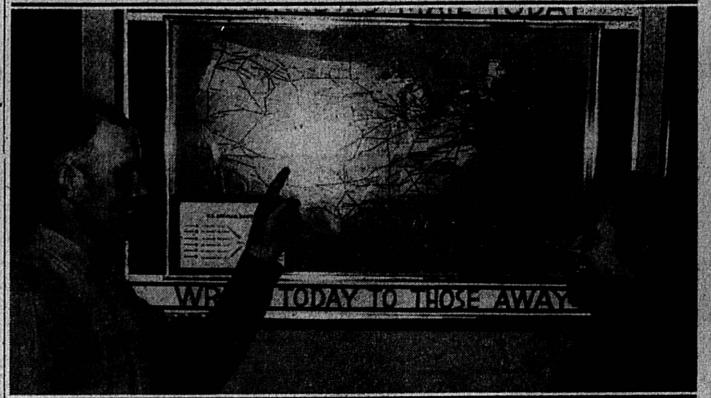
In New Building in 1935
Originally, the postoffice was located in the office of the Campbell Real Estate Company, across the street from the P. E. railway station in the building now occupied by the First Church of Christ, Scientist. Later, George Post, father of J. Wallace Post, erected the bank building at the corner of Sartori and Marcelina aves. where a room was provided for postoffice quarters. This room is now occupied by the Torrance Pharmacy and Harriett Leech's flower shop.

On Oct. 12, 1935 the postoffice was moved into its present quarters. The office advanced from fourth to third class Jan. 1, 1935 and from third to second class July 1, 1937.

The following are employed in the operation of the office at the present time: Louis H. Deininger, assistant postmaster; Mrs. Margaret Neish, Mrs. M. Anderson, Dale Deane, Herbert G. Stullenburger, Harold Buck, Glen M. Robinson, clerks; Theodore L. Wertz, George A. Hannan, Carl L. Backlund and Clyde E. McNew, city carriers; George H. Koehler, rural route carrier; Harry E. Theilman and Robert H. Hannan, substitute



LOOKS THE SAME TODAY... This is the architect's drawing of the postoffice building as he conceived it in 1935.



HIS WORK ON DISPLAY... George A. Hannan, city mail carrier, is shown here explaining his electric cardograph of U. S. airmail routes to Miss Korena Carlin. The display, which was installed in the postoffice foyer in October, 1939, still attracts much interest there.

clerk-carriers; William Everett and James T. Noall, custodians; William Mason, special delivery carrier, and L. W. Simmons, mail-messenger.

Man in Blue Hikes 16 Miles Daily With Pack

Six days a week, that familiar figure in blue—the mailman—walks on an average of 16 miles a day in Torrance making his house-to-house calls. He delivers an average weight of 100 pounds of mail a day. His bag and straps can carry about 50 pounds. A system of relays is carried out to supply him with his daily deliveries using the mail boxes as relay stations. His route is so mapped out that he ends one sweep at a mailbox where he can load up again for another.

Lou Deininger Is Senior Postal Worker

Senior member of the Torrance postoffice staff is Louis H. Deininger, assistant postmaster. His record of service with Uncle Sam—with time out while he served in the Army during World War I—dates from 1916.

Co. Budget Contains Slough Drain Fund

Temporary improvements to Dominguez channel, to drain the low-lying old Nigger Slough area, which in turn serves as the basin into which the area around Los Angeles airport drains, are planned in the new county budget, calling for an outlay of \$88,725. If federal reimbursement is received, another \$80,000 is to be made available, however.

The new Thousand Islands international bridge between the United States and Canada follows the trail the Mohawk Indians used to cross the frozen St. Lawrence two centuries ago.



STAFF ON ENTERING NEW BUILDING... Postmaster C. Earl Conner and his staff as of 1935 are shown here grouped on the steps of the new postoffice when it was opened that year.

PROTEST CAMP

Protest of the Southwest District Highways Association, against the proposal of the county charities department to establish and expand a camp for indigent single men at Alondra Park was on file with the board of supervisors this week.

Dale Deane Acts As Civil Service Secretary

Dale Deane, clerk at the Torrance postoffice, also serves as secretary of the local Civil Service Board—a position which he has held with distinction for a number of years.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE F.C.P.O.

It means a good bit to all of us here in Torrance when one of our most important government agencies grows so fast, and does their job so well that they get a "First Class Rating."

Just across the street, Torrance Plumbing is going to go along too, still more years are ahead of us and we'll stay the home of "first class plumbing."

TORRANCE PLUMBING CO.
F. L. PARKS 1418 MARCELINA

INDEED?

First Class indeed, it's taken the Post Office a long time to catch up with the rest of the businesses on Marcelina. We've all been "first class" from the start.

Take our place — Christy's — first class food, first class service, first class surroundings, AND FIRST CLASS CONGRATULATIONS TO C. EARL CONNER AND HIS STAFF.

CHRISTY'S 1434 MARCELINA TORRANCE
Phone 311
ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE POST OFFICE

VERY FIRST CLASS INDEED...

Though the Torrance Post Office has always given First Class Service... Firestone happily offers congratulations on their new First Class Rating.

And just as surely as we are merchants on the same street as the Post Office, we, too, continue our pledge to give FIRST CLASS AUTO SERVICE.

Firestone AUTO SUPPLY & SERVICE STORES
Marcellina & Cravens

VERSATILE POSTMASTER... Cafeman, mayor and postmaster, C. Earl Conner has served this community as perhaps no other citizen has during his many years here. Kiwanian, Boy Scout and perennial chairman of the Fight Infantile Paralysis campaigns, he has also contributed much as civic developer, community booster and member of the Torrance American Legion Post.

Postal Workers Build Up Own Retirement Fund By Pay Deduction

Postal workers are not covered by Social Security but they do benefit from a retirement fund which they create out of their own pay checks. Three and one-half percent is deducted from their salaries (and has been since 1920) to build up this fund. The retirement ages vary from 60 to 70 years, according to the classification of the postal workers.

Another Section of Rental Boxes Due

From four to 427—That's an indication of the growth of the Torrance postoffice expressed in rental boxes. Only four were rented by the first postmaster, Stewart F. Mager, in the first quarter of 1912. Today Postmaster Earl Conner has 427 rented and he has a new section of 72 additional boxes on order for early installation to meet the demand.

Read Our Want Ads in advance.

Many, Many Congratulations, Earl Conner...

You, and your staff's constant efforts and first class service have been rewarded indeed. The new rating gives all of Torrance even greater prestige as a growing, aggressive town. We'll keep pace here at Beacon too, for you can count on us to deliver first class service for everyone's drug store needs.

BEACON DRUG CO.
GRAMERCY and CABRILLO PHONE 180

DEAR POST OFFICE:

You have been along side of me for 14 years. I have always been first class in my profession. Glad to see you ascend to our class.

Neighborly yours,
Dr. C. L. Ingold, Optometrist

Greetings

To the **FIRST CLASS** Postmaster, From a "First Class" Medicine Man.

We're glad to welcome the Torrance Post Office staff into the ranks of top notch business houses on Marcelina Ave.

Thru the diligent study of chemistry and analytical, biological, physiological and pathological research, plus many other technical and scientific courses we have always endeavored to improve our prescription service. We are naturally glad to congratulate our neighbor—the post office and its staff, in their attainment of this step forward.

Torrance Pharmacy
George Probert
1411 MARCELINA AVE. PHONE 3
"ON YOUR WAY TO THE POST OFFICE"

Mrs. Sykes Is Pioneer Mail Carrier In City

No one in Torrance knows the time-honored rule of the U. S. postal service—"the mail must go thru"—better than Mrs. Phoebe Sykes of 1921 Cota ave. She knows what it takes to live up to that rule because she was the first postal carrier in Torrance—and that was several years before Torrance was on any map and before it had a postoffice.

Mrs. Sykes used to carry mail by horse and buggy from the Redondo Beach postoffice to Lomita, passing thru what a few hardy souls claimed was Torrance on route. She maintained her star route delivery for several years.

When Travel Was Hard
Nowadays when folks complain about the traffic that slows up their super-slices and V-8s, Mrs. Sykes smiles and remembers—When she had to force her horse thru dust above the hubs; When she covered the same territory in winter and the mud was equally high; When sandstorms blotted out every landmark and she was lost for hours; and, When she heaved heavy mail bags around like they were today's shopping bags because she was a rural route carrier and "the mail must go thru."

Postmaster Calculates Number of Persons Served By P. O. Here

How many persons are served by the Torrance postoffice? Well, Postmaster Earl Conner figures out the answer to that query in this fashion: In addition to the number of patrons who receive their mail in the 427 rental boxes and approximately 300 who call at the general delivery window; the rural route (which is 42 miles in length) serves 860 families comprising 3,010 people. Then there are four city routes which serve 2,250 deliveries. Add these up and you have about 5,987.

P. O. RECEIPTS
Postal receipts here for the current year, to and including June 16, have amounted to \$18,418.59, Postmaster Conner said today.

Read Our Want Ads

Here's Latest Mail Schedule for City

This schedule of mailings of mail at the local postoffice, corrected to July 1, 1941, should be clipped out and retained for future reference:

| Incoming | Contains | Outgoing | Closing Time |
|----------------------------------|--------------|---|--------------|
| X 6:00 A. M. | EASTERN | 6:00 A. M. | 5:30 A. M. |
| Y 10:20 A. M. | Northern | 9:20 A. M. | 9:40 A. M. |
| Z 12:00 Noon | CALIFORNIA | 12:00 Noon | 11:45 A. M. |
| Z 1:28 P. M. | NORTHERN | 1:28 P. M. | 1:00 P. M. |
| Z 5:46 P. M. | East & North | 5:46 P. M. | 5:00 P. M. |
| X Daily except Sunday | | 7:00 P. M. | 6:55 P. M. |
| Z Daily except Sunday & Holidays | | at Post Office not later than 5:30 P. M. for last dispatch. | |



WHEN CITY DELIVERY STARTED... Alfred Gourdier, postmaster here from November, 1919, to February, 1934, is shown here between the first two city carriers; when city delivery of mail began on Jan. 1, 1923. Mr. Gourdier died July 9, 1939. Names of the two mailmen are not known.

Efficiency plus Service Equals "First Class"

The National is happy to congratulate C. Earl Conner and his staff on their new First Class Rating.

The Torrance Post Office does a hard job in a first rate manner — and when you want the "First" names in appliances remember National Home.

NATIONAL HOME APPLIANCE CO.
"FRIENDLY CREDIT"
1328 SARTORI AVENUE TORRANCE

NEWS FLASH

Torrance P. O. Becomes One of the Gang

New first class rating handed Postmaster C. Earl Conner today qualified his business to join those other famed Marcelina Avenue shops whose rating these many years past has been "first class."

Congratulations From Fenwick's Shoe Repair
JUST ACROSS FROM THE POST OFFICE
1420 Marcelina